

TORNADO NEAR HUMPHREYS PEAK!



Photograph provided by David Blanchard

Quick Stats:

Date and Time: September 14th
approximately 5:23 – 5:32 pm MST

Location: Just north of Arizona
Snowbowl along Humphreys Peak Trail

Elevation: 9,200 – 10,500 feet

Path Length: 1.3 miles, discontinuous

Intensity: EF-2, Mostly EF0 – EF1 (65 – 110 mph), with isolated low end EF2 damage (approximately 120 mph)

Damage: Tree and forest damage



Think tornadoes don't occur at high altitudes? Think again! On September 14th, shortly before 5:30 pm a tornado touched down along Humphreys Peak Trail very near the Arizona Snowbowl. The elevation along the tornado track varied from 9,200 to 10,500 feet – making this one of the highest altitudes of a documented tornado in the U.S. High mountain tornadoes, while unusual, are not unheard of. In July 1987, a violent F4 tornado cut a 24 mile long path through parts of Teton-Yellowstone National Park, at an elevation of 8,500-10,000 feet. And in July 2004, a tornado was observed in Sequoia National Park at an elevation of near 12,000 feet!